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Talking Points for Tim Wirth
Testimony August 2, 1994

Byrd Amendment (if asked):

- The State Department received over the weekend a copy of the Byrd Amendment to the DoD Supplemental Appropriation and we are studying it closely.
- We understand the sentiment behind the amendment and share the concerns reflected therein. *We do not yet fully understand the amendment's intent or purpose.*
- While we share the desire of the amendment's author to pull out our troops as soon as possible, it is probably too soon in the operation to predict an accurate cut-off date. It would be inadvisable to mandate a specific pull out date without fully evaluating the progress made on the ground, *including* and the degree to which troops have been recruited for the expanded UNAMIR operation. *African relief efforts, including UNAMIR, are unique. The African relief effort is the largest humanitarian operation in history.*
- This operation is unique. The humanitarian suffering in Rwanda is of an unprecedented scale and magnitude. Without U.S. leadership on the relief effort, the suffering would be greater.
- That said, I do note that the Administration could have reservations about the amendment language, including constitutional issues about the authority of the President.
- We will continue to consult with Congress on the status of the U.S. relief operation in the region, the UNAMIR and UNHCR-led operations, and other related issues.
- We note the report language calls for the Administration to insist that the UN should credit U.S. funds made available

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN S BLODGETT
DATE/CASE ID: 06 OCT 2005 200103014

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for humanitarian relief in Rwanda against past assessments of the United States due to the UN.

- Being voluntary contributions, these funds cannot be credited against assessments since, by definition, they were not included in activities financed by UN assessments.
- An entirely new burden-sharing concept by the UN would be required in order to account for both voluntary efforts by the U.S. and member states as well as the usual assessed contributions.

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